

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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FOR CARTER FROM BROWN (S/PRS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY 17 DAILY NEWS BRIEFING

NO. 13

1. TODAY'S BRIEFING FEATURE& CUBA, CBU DECISION,
COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL, LINOWITZ, RHODESIA, AND VIETNAM
(SEE SEPTEL ON LAST). AUTO ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DEATH
OF THREE PROMINENT UGANDAN SUSPECTS WAS EXPECTED TOPIC
BUT DID NOT ARISE. YOU WILL RECEIVE PRESS GUIDANCE ON
THIS; WE ARE CONSIDERING VOLUNTEERING COMMENT.

2. CUBA: ACTING SPOKESMAN BROWN DECLINED TO OFFER
ELUCIDATION, EXPANSION OR COMMENT ON PRESIDENT'S DEPARTMENT
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OF AGRUCULTURE REMARKS ON CUBA. PARTICULAR INTEREST IN
"RECOMMITMENT" OF CUBANS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS HELPFUL
MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZATION, RECENT CONTACTS ON ANTI-HIJACK-
ING AGREEMENT, ANGOLAN WITHDRAWALS, AND ANY OVERT CHANGE
IN USG POLICY TOWARD CUBA. ALSO QUESTIONS ON RELAXATION
OF RESTRICTIONS ON CUBA TRAVEL BY AMCITS, LOCATIONS OF
CUBAN TROOPS IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

3. LINOWITZ: ASKED IF AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ'S MANDATE INCLUDED REVIEW OF U.S./CUBAN RELATIONS, BROWN REPLIED

THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE LINOWITZ'S FUNCTION WAS PRECISELY AS STATED BY WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT.

4. CBU: PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ANNOUNCED AT WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING JUST PRIOR TO OURS PROMPTED OBVIOUS QUESTIONS. BROWN USED SHORT VERSION OF POWELL'S LANGUAGE BUT LEFT MOST OF DETAILS TO RATHER EXTENSIVE POWELL COMMENTS (BEING SENT YOU BY SEPTTEL). FOCUS OF QUESTIONING WAS ON USG MAKING GOOD ON PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENTS AND STATUS OF FLIR CONSIDERATION. SOME QUESTIONING ON "TECHNICAL NATURE" OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELIS ON FLIR.

5. RHODESIA: ASKED IF HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS, TRILATERAL OR OTHERWISE, WERE BEING PLANNED ON RHODESIA, BROWN SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY AT MOMENT BUT THAT POSSIBLY LOWER LEVEL CONSULTATIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN NEXT WEEK OR SO.

6. SAKHAROV NEWS CONFERENCE BROKE TOO LATE FOR TODAY'S BRIEFING BUT WILL SURELY BE PRIME TOPIC TOMORROW.

HARTMAN

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